THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

Launching of climate-satellite

1834. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has submitted a proposal for launching climate-satellie; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon to enable Government to save lives during natural calamities by advance prediction of cyclones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir. However, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has constituted an Expert Group for defining a satellite for climate studies — CLIMATSAT Programme Definition Group — for working out the technical feasibility of designing and launching such a satellite. The Committee is presently working out the payload mix, orbit, satellite configuration, etc., for the proposed satellite in close collaboration with various Indian user Organisations such as, India Meterological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and Indian Institute of Science.

(b) Presently, the analysis of sequential cloud cover images provided by the Indian geostationary INSAT satellites, has been facilitating advanced warning on the onset of cyclones. The Disaster Warning System using additionally the communication capability of INSAT has been used to take advanced actions in relation to evacuation of people from coastal regions.

Remote sensing techniques for soil reclamation

1835. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Remote Sensing Agency has introduced advanced remote sensing techniques for treating salt affected soild for reclamation measures which can increase food production;

(b) if so, the districts of Andhra Pradesh where it has been tested;

(c) whether Government propose to popularise the technique for coastal regions, for more agricultural yield and to assist farmers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has not by itself introduced any advanced remote sensing technique for treating salt affected soils for reclamation measures, which could increase food production.

NRSA has, however, developed the methodology for identification and delineation of salt affected soils and for categorising them into different groups based on the nature and magnitude of the